

Giles Feed Store

By Richard Van Wagoner

The People's Co-op feed department was a rather mundane place to stop by to pick up a couple of bags of chicken feed and some beet pulp for the cows and maybe a sack of rabbit pellets for the kid's Easter bunny. But you could not convince manager Francis Goates that this was not an exciting place to work.

On 6 January 1934, Goates was standing atop the seed mixer pouring a sack of grain into the mechanism. The sack became snagged. Goates lost his balance and fell into the bin. Fortunately Co-op manager Armond Webb walked into the area, heard Goates' agonized screams and threw the switches to stop the mixer. A badly broken leg, deep chest cut, and numerous other bruises testified that Goates was a lucky man to survive the accident.

Afton Giles, who had worked for the People's Cooperative since 1919 became the feed department manager in January 1937. Nine months later, when ZCMI announced that they were abandoning the Lehi branch (the People's Co-op), Giles purchased the feed department. Until May 1939, he was situated at 189 East State (Purple Pig Pizza Parlor in 1989). But when M.S. Lott moved his plumbing business elsewhere, Giles reestablished his business one door east (193 East State) where he remained for twenty-eight years.

Giles Feed Store was rich with early aroma. Customers well remember what an olfactory reward it was to visit the place. Giles custom ground a full line of poultry, dairy, and hog feeds on a Hammermill Grinder. Early ads for his business noted that he also carried grain, flour, baled hay, cedar post, stock salt, poultry supplies, and "chicken coop spray and cow spray". Giles also advertised "SPRAY YOUR FRUIT TREES NOW WITH ARSENATE OF LEAD"-its toxic effects not known in 1939. In 1967, Wally Olsen purchased the building from Giles and established Outpost Antiques in 1989., in the 1990 it is the Lehi Barber Stylist.